City of Santa Barbara Plants for Parkways

Muehlenbeckia axillaris (Creeping Wire Vine)

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen ground-hugging vine 2-12 in. tall. Can be mowed occasionally. Forms a tight mat, spreading by underground stems. Tiny 1/8 in. long, dark glossy green leaves and translucent white fruits. Best in small areas or rock gardens. Needs some summer water.

Dymondia margaretae (no common name) South Africa

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen perennial 2-3 in. tall, spreading but not invasive. Forms a tight, weed-resistant mat. Leaves are narrow, gray-green, with edges rolled up. Flowers are small yellow daisies tucked into foliage, in summer. Fast growing.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun. Drought or regular watering. No fertilizer. Almost any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

SPECIAL REMARKS: A very tough plant. Best-looking when out of bloom.

Lessingia filaginifolia 'Silver Carpet' (no common name) CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen perennial 8 in. - 1 ft. tall, 4-5 ft. wide. Leaves are fine-textured, white, woolly. Flowers are lavender-pink daisies to 1 in. wide. Fast growing.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun. Little or no water. No fertilizer. Grows in almost any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases.

Teucrium chaemadrys (Germander) Europe and S.W. Asia

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen subshrub to 4-12 in. tall, spreading to 2-3 ft. wide. Leaves are small, toothed, dark green. Flowers are small, reddish-purple, in summer. Fast growing.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun. Occasional watering. Little or no fertilizer. Most well-drained soils. No pests or diseases. Cut back 1-2 times a year to keep compact.

SPECIAL REMARKS: T.c. 'Prostratum' grows 4-6 in. tall by 3 ft. wide.

Myoporum parvifolium

DESCRIPTION: A very prostrate shrub, 6-8 inches high, spreading 12-15 ft. across and more. Foliage is comprised of small, medium green leaves, to ½ in. long, 1/8 in. wide. Numerous white flowers occur in clusters along branches in early spring and intermittently all year.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun. Minimal to no watering. It tolerates heat and frost.

Aptenia 'Red Apple'

DESCRIPTION: A low growing succulent perennial, 6-12 in. high, spreading more than 2 ft. wide. Fleshy, heart-shaped leaves are light green: showy purple-red flowers being in spring and continue through fall.

LANDSCAPE USES: Groundcover

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun. Minimal watering. It tolerates salt spray. Does best in well drained soils.

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Manzanita, Bearberry)

DESCRIPTION: A prostrate shrub, 6-12 in. high and spreading as much as 10-12 ft. Glossy green leaves attach to dark red-brown branches; flowers are white to light pink in late winter and early spring.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun. Occasional watering.

SPECIAL REMARKS: Try Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet' grows to 1ft. high, reaching 4-6 ft. across. Needs minimal watering and prefers well drained, loam soils.

Lantana montevidensis (Trailing Lantana) South America

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen trailing shrub to 1-3 ft. tall, spreading to 6-8 ft. (there are also taller shrubby varieties). Foliage is medium-textured, dark green, slightly fuzzy, aromatic. Flowers are small, in rounded clusters, in many colors including purple, white, yellow and mixed colors, blooming year-round. Fast growing.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun. Occasional deep soaking in summer. Occasional or no fertilizer. Grows in most soils. No pests or diseases. Heavy pruning in spring stimulates growth, keeps plants compact. Optimum results with top pruning 1-2 times per year.

SPECIAL REMARKS: Often sold as L. sellowiana. In parkway plant only in single row in center of parkway.

Mahonia repens (Creeping Mahonia) California Native

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen groundcover creeps by underground stems to 3 ft. tall/spreading. Dull bluish/green leaves turn bronzy in winter. Yellow flowers April through June with short clusters of blue berries.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Sun to partial shade, little to no watering.

SPECIAL REMARKS: Dull green leaves are pleasing; birds love berries.

Arctotis acaulis 'Magenta' (African Daisy)

DESCRIPTION: Spreading stemless, gray-green leaves in clumps with magenta flowers in profusion. Grows 6"-8" high.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Full sun, little water.

SPECIAL REMARKS: Good striking contrast in flower and gray foliage.

Gazania rigens leucolaena (Trailing gazania)

DESCRIPTION: 6"-10" tall, spreads rapidly by long trailing stems. Gray-green foliage with flowers in varying colors of yellow, white, orange, bronze depending on variety. 'Sunglow' = yellow flowers, 'Mitsuma White' = white flowers.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Grows in any soil, fertilize once a year is helpful but not a necessity.

SPECIAL REMARKS: New hybrids have larger flowers & are resistant to die back, bloom longer. Good on banks or level ground.

Crassula multicava

DESCRIOPTION: Succulent green circular leaves with delicate light pink flowers that sit several inches above foliage. Blooms late winter-early spring. Rampant, but not invasive.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Grows in sun or shade in any soil, little water.

Lampranthus spectabilis (Trailing iceplant)

DESCRIPTION: 6"-12" tall, not invasive, but spreads easily. Comes in red, rose, magenta, light pink floral colors. Covered in flowers giving a "carpet" like color in spring.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Grows in full sun in any soil, little water.

Drosanthemum floribundum (Rosea iceplant)

DESCRIPTION: Small, silvery green foliage that hugs the ground to 6" tall. Pale pink flowers. Droesanthemun lispidum grows to 2 ft. tall by 3 ft. wide with purple flowers in late spring and early summer.

CULTURAL CONDITIONS: Grows in any soil, little to no water, attracts bees.